

PugetSoundPartnership

our sound, our community, our chance

Partners Designation Background and Next Steps Agenda Item #9

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Approved by Director: DDD

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Proposed Action: Establish an Ecosystem Coordination Board workgroup and request volunteers to help develop partner designation criteria.

Legislative Direction:

An opportunity exists in the PSP's enabling legislation to designate partners and utilize this designation as a fiscal incentive to encourage implementation of Action Agenda priorities.

As specified in statute, the designation as a Puget Sound Partner will influence the allocation of state funds to a majority of entities operating in the Puget Sound region, including: state agencies, conservation districts, special purpose districts, tribes, local governments, and private and non-profit entities.

"The partnership shall develop a process and criteria by which entities that consistently achieve outstanding progress in implementing the action agenda are designated as Puget Sound partners. State Agencies shall work with the partnership to revise their grant, loan, or other financial assistance allocation criteria to create a preference for entities designated as Puget sound partners for funds allocated to the Puget Sound basin, pursuant to RCW 43.155.070, 70.105D.070, 70.146.070, 77.85.130, 79.105.150, 79A.15.040, 89.08.520, and 90.50A.040. This process shall be developed on a timeline that takes into consideration state grant and loan funding cycles." (RCW 90.71.340 [4])."

Strategic Opportunity:

The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) has the opportunity to develop a process for publicly appreciating and recognizing entities that consistently achieve outstanding progress implementing the Action Agenda. We can provide region-wide publicity and recognition to organizations taking voluntary initiative and measurable steps to implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda—resulting in restoring the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem by 2020.

Vision:

To develop a program that appreciates, incentivizes and provides funding to entities in the Puget Sound area working to implement the Action Agenda.

Principles:

1. To ensure each eligible entity has the opportunity to qualify for partner designation.
2. To ensure fairness among the different types of entities.
3. To ensure legislative appropriations that contribute to Puget Sound protection and recovery, agencies are either in, or consistent with, the 2020 action agenda.

Recommendation:

We recommend establishing a workgroup within the ECB to make recommendations regarding Partner designation to the PSP and LC.

PSP's goal is to collaborate with members of the ECB to help DRAFT criteria, develop a process for designation and conceptualize an award for partner designation

The goal of the workgroup would be to share recommendations with the whole ECB in September and have the LC begin designating partners in November.